

Abstract 184

TITLE: Rethinking Primary Prevention to Meet the Needs of Gay and Bisexual Men Living with HIV

AUTHORS: Wolitski, RJ & the Seropositive Urban Men 's Study (SUMS)Group

BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVE: Formative data from the Seropositive Urban Men 's Study (SUMS) will be used to highlight issues that prevention programs should address when attempting to reduce the risk of m transmission by gay and bisexual men living with HIV.

METHOD: Self-administered surveys were completed by 251 HIV seropositive gay and bisexual men from New York City and San Francisco. Participants were recruited from 6/97-11/97 through AIDS service organizations, mainstream gay venues, public sex environments, and referral by friends. The majority of participants (69.7%) were men of color.

RESULTS: Data from SUMS highlight several ways in which programs need to be redesigned in order to meet the primary prevention needs of people living with HIV. First, rather than motivating participants to protect themselves from HIV, programs for people living with HIV must motivate W-positive individuals to protect others. Most SUMS participants perceived themselves to be responsible for protecting others from HIV infection but some did not. For example, 76.5% agreed that "HIV positive gay men have a special responsibility to keep other gay men from becoming positive. " Men with higher (perceived responsibility scores were less likely than those with lower scores to have unprotected insertive anal sex ($p < .001$), unprotected receptive anal sex ($p < .001$) and unprotected insertive oral sex ($p < .05$) with partners whose HIV status was negative or unknown. Data from SUMS will also be presented to illustrate other challenges for prevention programs that work with people living with HIV. These challenges are related to disclosure of HIV status, mental health, and the impact of treatment advances.

CONCLUSION: Developing primary prevention programs for people living with HIV presents new challenges to prevention programs with regard to reducing barriers to safer sex and increasing positive factors (such as personal responsibility) that foster maintenance of reduced risk practices.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Richard Wolitski

Address: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS E-37
Atlanta, GA 30333

Telephone: (404) 639-1939

Fax: (404) 639-1950

E-mail: ryw1@cdc.gov